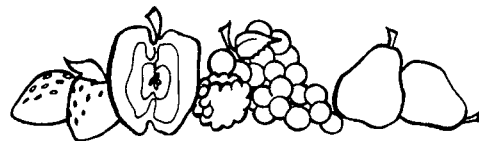


AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE • UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

FRUIT GROWERS' LETTER



June 1981

Raspberry Tips

Raspberries are highly perishable. They should be harvested as soon as ripe, handled very carefully, and either placed in cold storage or used without delay. It may be necessary to harvest daily to prevent loss of fruit and the spread of molds and other diseases.

Sap beetles (small black beetles with white markings) are a pest on the fruit of raspberries. Since they are attracted to and feed on over-ripened fruit, do not allow over-ripe fruit to accumulate. They can also be controlled with an application of the insecticide Sevin.

Keep your raspberries cultivated until harvest. Weeds and the raspberry suckers compete for moisture and nutrients and as a result often restrict new cane growth and berry size.

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July Is Apple Maggot Time

Although maggot mainly infests apples, it also attacks plums and crabapples. Adult flies that have dark bands on the wings puncture the skin of an apple and insert an egg into the punctured area. Egg laying begins in early July and can continue until frost or harvest. Tiny maggots hatch from the eggs and feed on the apple, leaving a tiny brown trail. The fruits are often dimpled and, if infested, will soon rot. Several good sprays are available, including Sevin and Diazinon. Apply the sprays at 7 to 10 day intervals.

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New Strawberry Book Available

Dr. Norman F. Childers is the editor of The Strawberry - Cultivars to Marketing. The price--domestic \$19.95 plus \$1.95 postage and handling, foreign, \$25.00 total, International Money Order. Until August 1, 1981, contact Childers at P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876. After August 1, 1981, the address is 3609 N. W. 31st Place, Gainesville, FL 32601. The publication is a result of the 1980 International Strawberry Conference held in St. Louis, MO.

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Fire Blight A Problem?

Fire blight is a common and serious disease on apple, crabapple, and pear. Also attacked are many ornamentals including hawthorn, mountain ash, Juneberry, and rose. During June and July, new shoot growth suddenly looks as if scorched by fire with dark brown or blackened leaves. The bacteria overwinter mostly in

-over-

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Fire Blight--continued

slightly sunken, discolored cankers in the branches and trunk. Twigs and branches die back. The disease cuts production and may eventually kill the tree.

The blighted portions of each branch should be removed. If done in the summer, wipe pruning tools between cuts with household chlorine bleach mixed half-and-half with water. The infected branches and cankers can also be removed during the winter season if not removed in the summer.

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Increase Strawberry Production for Pick Your Own Growers

Growing strawberries in Minnesota can be made easier if certain management and cultural practices are followed.

1. Grow Minnesota adapted and recommended varieties. These include hardy varieties such as Trumpeter, Redcoat, Sparkle, and Veestar.
2. Plant in early May and encourage strong plant development with early blossom removal and by supplying ample water through irrigation.
3. Give the strawberry plants a chance for maximum growth with optimum weed control practices.
4. Protect established plants from low temperatures by covering with a good straw mulch.
5. Control insects (tarnished plant bug "nubbins") and berry fruit rots.
6. Irrigate during fruit development.
7. Renovate beds after harvest. If desired, cut off all foliage. Narrow the rows to approximately 12 inches wide using a rototiller or hoe. The remaining narrow row can then be hand hoed to remove weeds or a herbicide applied for larger plantings. Apply one pound of a high nitrogen fertilizer for each 25 feet of row.

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New Tayberry Fruit

The new berry Tayberry (a cross made in Scotland from the Aurora blackberry and a raspberry) was recently introduced into the United States. The fruit is approximately 1 - 1½ inches long, conical in shape, a deep purple color when ripe, and has an excellent flavor similar to the Loganberry (a blackberry). The core is retained in the fruit when picked. It begins ripening with the midseason raspberries but has a longer ripening season. The berries are suited as fresh or frozen fruit and excellent for wine or jam. They should be available in the United States in 1982. (At the present time, their adaptability to Minnesota's temperatures is unknown.)

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Fruit and Vegetable Directory Available

The 1981 directory of Minnesota Grown Fruits and Vegetables is now available. Of particular interest, the directory lists by county Minnesota's Pick-Your-Own (PYO) fruit and vegetable farms. With the strawberry season starting shortly, write to :

Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
90 West Plato Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Ask for the Minnesota Directory of Fruit and Vegetables.

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Strawberry Plants Injured


The 1980-81 Minnesota winter, mild but without snow cover, resulted in moderate to severe injury in established strawberry plantings. Those plantings that did not receive a good covering (mulch) of straw had the greatest amount of injury. On the other hand, those fields that had been mulched with straw, although often showing some winter injury, were growing better than the nonmulched fields. It was also noted that the older crowns were the most severely injured, whereas the young crowns produced from last year's runners were less severely injured and should produce fruit this year.

In some commercial as well as garden plantings, variety selection was important. Those plantings having hardy varieties such as Trumpeter were less injured than plantings of cold tender varieties. (I examined a commercial planting of Ozark Beauty that had been 100 percent killed.)

The May 9 and 10 frosts were also responsible for injured strawberry flowers, particularly those large flowers that had opened up early.

The 1981 strawberry harvest in Minnesota began approximately June 15. A good crop of strawberries is available for the Pick-Your-Own (PYO) customers.

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Leonard B. Hertz
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